

Weather Forecast

Rain this afternoon, clearing tonight; much cooler this afternoon and tonight; lowest tonight about 46. Temperatures today—Highest, 76, at 1 a.m.; lowest, 51, at 1:40 p.m.; 52 at 2 p.m.

From the United States Weather Bureau report. Full details on Page A-2.

Closing N. Y. Markets—Sales, Page 18.

88th YEAR. No. 35,211.

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1940—FORTY PAGES. ***

THREE CENTS.

French Renew Gibraltar Attack; Dakar Fight Still on, London Says; Japan to Halt Indo-China Advance

Port's Surrender Earlier Rumored In Vichy

VICHY, Sept. 25.—Unconfirmed and conflicting reports that Dakar, capital of French West Africa, had surrendered to the "Free French" and British expedition circulated here today.

(At the London headquarters of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, leader of the "Free French" expedition against Dakar, it was said "operations at Dakar are continuing" and that there was no confirmation of reports of the city's surrender.)

It could not be learned with certainty whether the city still was holding out or whether the expeditionary troops had gained a foothold on the African coastline, taking the "key to the South Atlantic."

No official news from Dakar had been announced since yesterday at 1 p.m., when the British were reported starting a violent raid.

It was noted that reports of French planes bombing Gibraltar were circulated here yesterday afternoon but it was impossible to obtain official confirmation or denial. Today the government announced officially that an unspecified number of French planes bombed Gibraltar for two hours yesterday in reprisal for British action against Dakar with Gen. Charles de Gaulle's "Free French" forces.

More Violent Attack. Later details reaching the French Admiralty said more violent fighting in the afternoon yesterday at Dakar resulted in a considerably greater number of victims and more damage to the city than the British morning action, which killed 185 persons and wounded 363 others.

A naval ministry communiqué said the civilian casualties included 65 dead and 225 injured.

Dakar dispatches said the 35,000-ton battleship Richelieu, put out of commission in a British attack July 8, while unable to navigate, used her heavy guns in defense. The Richelieu was reported hit by aerial bombs.

Other French war vessels penned in the harbor likewise were reported replying to the British fire.

The Naval Ministry said six attempts to land troops had been repulsed yesterday.

The port's radio station was out of commission. Radios aboard French warships in the harbor are now the only means of communication with the city, it was said.

Hit on Cruiser Claimed. The French said that one of their planes had scored a direct hit on a British cruiser. They acknowledged the loss of one plane.

Government circles said the British naval superiority was overwhelming, but expressed confidence the defenders of Dakar were amply to cope with any landing forces.

Admirals Landreau and La Croix, commanders of the French squadron at Dakar, cabled Vichy they were prepared to "fight to the end."

The British fleet renewed its bombardment of the port yesterday, the French government said, after Gen. Pierre Boisson had rejected a second ultimatum demanding that he surrender Dakar.

"France has confided Dakar to me," Gov. Boisson was quoted as saying. "I will defend it to the end."

The ultimatum government sources said, was backed by a threat to destroy Dakar's fortifications and occupy the city by force and was signed by "the admiral commanding the British fleet."

The headquarters of Gen. de Gaulle in London last night issued a communiqué saying British forces off Dakar were "only there to assure supplementary protection against any attack that may be inspired by Germans and carried out with their participation."

The communiqué said Gen. de Gaulle had sailed to Dakar in French ships under the French ensign, traveling with his troops and escorted by battleships of the free French Navy. It added he had decided on the expedition "to free the economic life of French West Africa from slavery and to prevent this colony from falling into the hands of the Germans."

(Dakar authorities were charged with opening hostilities by firing on a launch bringing Gen. de Gaulle.)

Airport Cornerstone Rites Postponed to Saturday

Because of rain and wind, laying of the cornerstone at Washington National Airport by President Roosevelt has been postponed until Saturday.

The same schedule will be followed Saturday, except that the program will begin at 2 p.m. instead of 3 p.m., as formerly scheduled, so as not to interfere with football programs. President Roosevelt is to arrive at 2:15 p.m. in front of the terminal building and order seven airplanes to make the first landings in the new field, carrying distinguished passengers.

The ceremonies will be broadcast by the N. B. C. and Mutual networks from 2 to 2:45 p.m., with the President laying the cornerstone and speaking at about 2:40 p.m.

New tickets for the small grandstand in front of the cornerstone will be issued to Federal officials and other distinguished guests, replacing those held for today's ceremony, it was announced. The public will be admitted without tickets up to 2 p.m., by way of the old Mount Vernon highway.

40 Warplanes Blast at Rock In New 'Reprisal' Raids

Buildings Afire as Bombs Are Dropped In Town and Near Big Arsenal

BULLETIN.

NEW YORK (AP).—The Berlin radio broadcast today asserting French officials had announced that Britain's fast and powerful battle cruiser Renown, 32,000 tons, had been severely damaged off Gibraltar by French air attacks.

By the Associated Press.

LA LINEA, Spain, Sept. 25.—French warplanes loosed a mass assault on Gibraltar today, the second in two days, and bomb explosions were seen in the vicinity of the arsenal and in the town itself.

The bombing started at 2:40 p.m. with the planes coming over in groups of four, but this gave way at 3:25 p.m. to an attack by 14 planes.

They dumped their entire bomb loads almost simultaneously and smoke billowed up from the vicinity of the arsenal and from the streets of the town.

Other bombs fell near the warships in the harbor, but none, apparently, was hit.

No British fighter planes were aloft.

In all, the raiding squadrons totaled about 40 planes.

At 3:50 p.m. they were coming over in waves of 10, roaring low and dropping their bombs, and they still were cruising over the Rock after 4 p.m.

Several buildings were afire.

Anti-aircraft guns on land and the "pom-poms" on warships in the bay sent up a terrific barrage.

After the first wave had passed a fresh flight droned over the smoke-enveloped arsenal, dumping bombs. Other explosives fell near the docks.

The bombing appeared heavier, even than yesterday's French attack, carried out in reprisal for the "free French" and British attack on Dakar.

Other indications, implicit in diplomatic maneuvering included:

1. Disclosure that the Japanese Ambassador to Rome, Eli Amari, and Italian Foreign Minister, Count Galeazzo Ciano, discussed the international situation at length yesterday, with "particular emphasis on the Japanese advance into French Indo-China."

2. A report in Berlin that Count Ciano would travel to Berlin tomorrow for a follow-up to last week's Rome consultation between German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Premier Mussolini.

3. The continued presence in Berlin of Ramon Serrano Suner, Spanish Minister of Government and No. 1 aide and brother-in-law of Generalissimo Franco.

(The Berlin radio announced that Ciano received Serrano Suner in the chancellery at noon. It was the second talk between the two. Crowds waiting outside the chancellery during the meeting testified to Berlin's interest in the Spaniard's mission.)

(The radio said the assumption "is crystallizing in political quarters" that the conversations between Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Italian leaders in Rome would be continued in Berlin Friday with both Serrano Suner and Ciano taking part.)

(The radio mentioned an "even more far reaching rumor" that this Berlin conference would be followed next week "by a concluding meeting of the leading men of Germany, Italy and Spain in South Germany.")

Gayda Warns Britain. The authoritative Fascist editor, Vittorio Gayda, threatened Britain with counter-attack "at all points on the various seas and continents where attempts are made to organize last-minute Allies."

The threat was based on any British attempt to spread the war to West Africa, which, in a sense, has been done by the combined British and so-called "Free French" expedition against Dakar, French Senegal.

The official Italian news agency, Stefani, declared Italian attempts to justify the Dakar attack as intended to prevent the axis powers from using it as a base for attack on the American continents was "a ridiculous invention."

Stefani said "it is known" that (See ROME, Page A-2.)

Bomber Chased Out to Sea. A Brighton correspondent reported that a Spitfire fighter chased a German bomber out to sea at noon today and a little later returned, doing a "victory roll."

Massed German bombers gave central London the worst plastering of the war last night. Some of the fires were still burning at noon today. For block after block one could not get away from the penetrating smell of smoke.

Within a radius of 100 yards two bombs fell in a busy street and a third turned a three-story house into a skeleton. Incendiaries fired two furniture stores and a pair of smaller buildings.

Amid bomb craters and fires, other stores remained open for business and coddle fruit and vegetable sellers were back on the damaged streets today, picking their way through the tangle of fire hoses.

One woman vendor set up her stall (See LONDON, Page A-4.)

Colonial Officials Willing to Fulfill Terms of Pact

By C. YATES Mc DANIEL, Associated Press Foreign Correspondent.

HANOI, Indo-China, Sept. 25.—The military situation along a 50-mile frontier section 80 miles northeast of Hanoi was obscured today after Japanese advance forces cut communications between the Indo-Chinese capital and Langson, center of the northern border defense line.

Informed sources said the Tokyo government had ordered Gen. Teizo Ando, commanding Japan's South China Army, to halt the attack commenced the night of September 22.

The Indo-China government issued a statement reaffirming its willingness to carry out the Vichy-Tokyo pact and the more detailed agreement reached September 22 with Japanese representatives.

Accord Violation Charged. The statement also reaffirmed Indo-China's determination to oppose with force all efforts of the Japanese South China Army to push across the northern frontier of Indo-China in what the government said was "absolute violation" of the accord granting Japan limited military rights. The French insist they agreed to permit Japanese to enter only by the port of Haiphong.

The government said the agreements contained formal Japanese guarantees to respect Indo-China's territorial integrity and French sovereignty over the territory and the pact "precisely limited" the military facilities granted Japan.

"Domestic Japanese news agency, in a broadcast from Tokyo, quoted the foreign office spokesman there as saying latest reports from the Japanese South China Army command "justified the conclusion that hostilities would not be continued any longer."

"Domestic Japanese news high command was anxious to avoid further delay in getting its troops into Indo-China for a drive into Southwestern China, "since the Japanese have information that Chinese troops already are ready in large numbers on the Indo-China frontiers and any delay in making contact with them by the Japanese would be intolerable at this point in the operations."

In an earlier broadcast Domel reported that the South China command had announced its decision to send more troops to Haiphong by sea.)

Gen. Isaku Nishihara, who negotiated an agreement Sunday with French officials for Japanese military privileges in Indo-China, sped by minesweeper from Haiphong to Hainan Island to see Gen. Ando.

Troops Already on Barges. Observers at Haiphong said Japanese troops already had been loaded on barges and rafts off the mouth of the Red River when Gen. Nishihara persuaded their commander yesterday to delay a scheduled landing for an onslaught at the Haiphong area until he could talk with Gen. Ando.

French official sources, who declared the Japanese South China Army appeared to be acting independently, said the Japanese troops resumed their drive late yesterday at Langson, 12 miles within the northern border.

In a clash at this same point Monday, it was announced there were 20 French and native casualties while several Japanese were taken prisoners.

Colonial authorities continued precautionary measures. Schools in Annam, coastal area of the colony, were closed and the population was urged to support a "passive defense" by remaining calm.

"Non-essential" residents of Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities in the potentially endangered area were removed to places further in the interior.

Guard Saves Shipyard From Heavy Fire Loss

By the Associated Press.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 25.—The alertness of a watchman was credited today with preventing serious damage to Cramp's Shipyard by fire, discovered in a dock used as a storage place for barrels of resin.

A watchman at the long-side yards, expected soon to open with national defense orders, telephoned an alarm when he noticed smoke rising from the dock last night. Six fire companies and a fireboat responded and quickly extinguished the flames.

Hours later, however, the fireboat returned to throw water on the dock, guarding against the fire again breaking out. Damage was confined to piling and decking.

The one which fell closest to the Associated Press building blew out windows on the ground floor. It lit a fire at a broken gas main and flooded the Associated Press' underground shelter.

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Three New Destroyers Added To U. S. Navy Every Week

By FRED H. MORHART, Jr.

While observers here are watching closely the performance of 50 American over-age destroyers turned over to Great Britain in exchange for air and naval bases, three new destroyers a week on an average are going into commission for the American fleet.

They pointed out this fact today as an answer to the objections raised at the time the destroyer deal was announced that the ships could not be spared by the American fleet.

An observer said the destroyers, taken off the neutrality patrol and traded to Great Britain, were not missed because replacements were coming along fast enough.

Since the transaction was made September 3, 16 destroyers, it is reported, have been delivered at Canadian ports. Squadrons will be turned over, from now on, at two-week intervals or as specified by the British. The vessels are ready in American ports and await the assembling of British crews on this side of the Atlantic. Delivery of the destroyers is expected to be completed by December.

Naval officials here said there had been no hitch in the delivery of the destroyers to the British and that none was expected. None of the (See DESTROYERS, Page A-4.)

Willkie Promises To Name Westerner To Interior Post

Attacks Concentration Of Power in Capital in Talk at Butte, Mont.

By J. A. O'LEARY, Star Staff Correspondent.

ABOARD THE WILLKIE SPECIAL IN MONTANA, Sept. 25.—Wendell L. Willkie was on record today with a promise to name a Westerner to the post of Secretary of the Interior if he is elected President.

He gave this assurance last night to a crowd of more than 15,000 that gathered to hear him in the high school stadium of Butte, another strong Democratic stop on his Western tour.

Mr. Willkie criticized the handling of public land problems by Secretary of the Interior Ickes. Without mentioning Mr. Ickes by name the Republican nominee said: "We have had a Secretary of the Interior who grew up in Chicago or who spent all of his mature life in Chicago. With all that power concentrated in Washington, and with no understanding of the atmosphere of the people of this Far Western country, he hasn't appreciated the necessity of the people here using these public lands as much as is economically possible for private uses, within proper regulations."

Appointment Pledge. "Now, let me give you my word about the problem of the public domain and these great parks in the West. I shall appoint as Secretary of the Interior, if I am elected President of the United States, a man from the Western country who grew up in and understands the atmosphere of this great section of America."

On Mr. Willkie's train schedule today were platform talks at Miles City, Mont., and Dickinson, Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City and Fargo, N. Dak. Tomorrow he will campaign through South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, completing the day with an address at Omaha.

Thirty years ago Wendell L. Willkie rode into Miles City, a Hoosier boy looking for summer work. He came back this morning on his campaign special, promising to create jobs for the unemployed if given the reins of government.

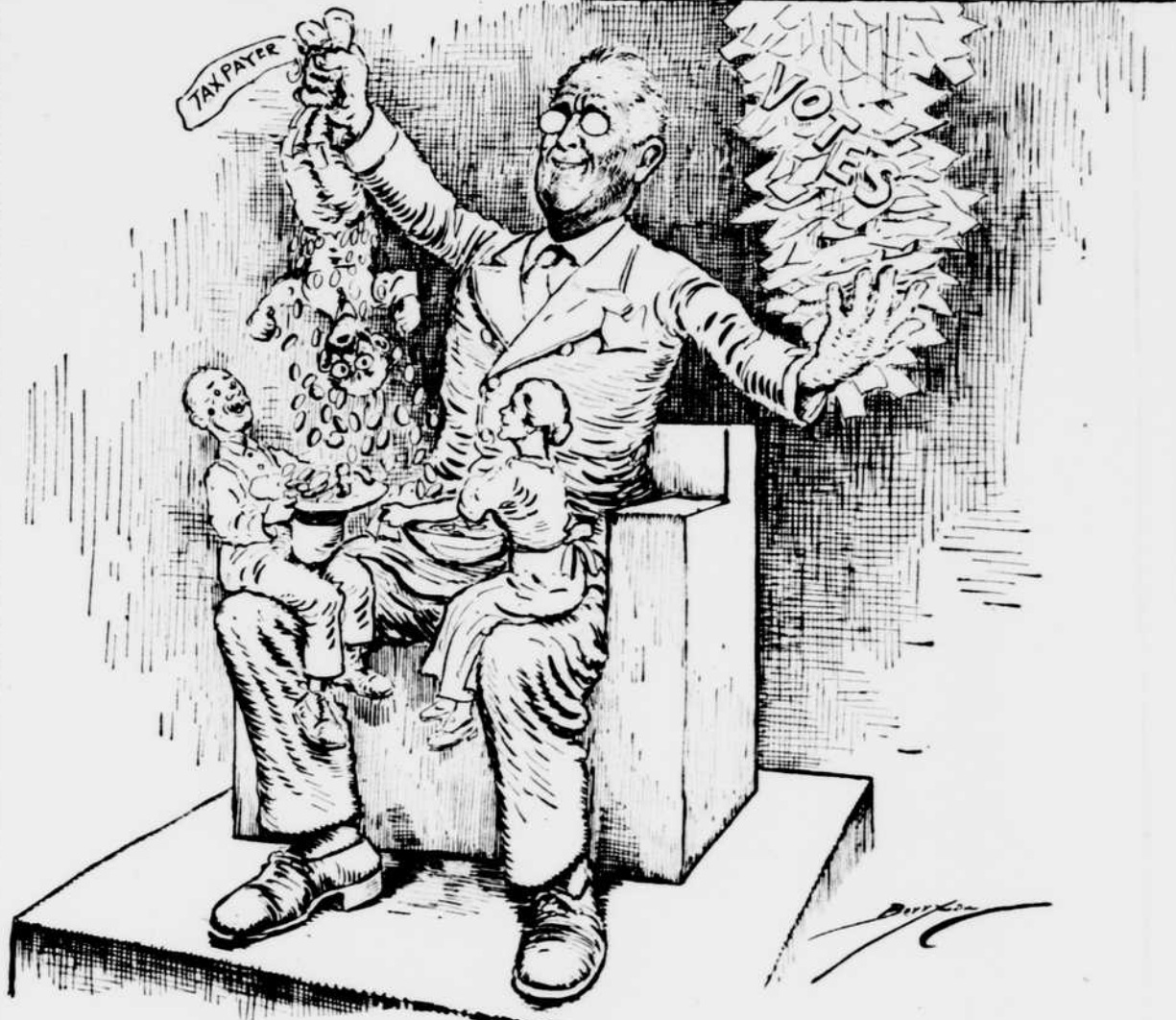
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Another Suggested Design for Sculpture for the New Social Security Building

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School Principals May Be Named Draft Registrars Here

Syphilis Blood Tests May Be Requested of Prospective Draftees

Designation of principals of schools selected as local draft registration centers to be chief registrars was reported under consideration by Government and selective service officials today, as developments were revealed in a tentative plan to request prospective draftees to submit voluntarily to a blood test for syphilis.

School officials are rushing to completion plans for signing up some 95,000 draft eligibles on October 16, and it was understood that a list, naming most of the principals of the 46 schools to be used as centers for the blood tests, is ready to submit to the Commissioners for approval.

It was also learned that under tentative plans approximately 4,000 volunteers would have to be called on to assist teachers in the school system with the registrations.

At the same time, Dr. George C. Ruhland, District health officer, wrote Brig. Gen. Albert L. Cox, the city's selective service executive, regarding a plan for testing the blood of prospective conscripts for syphilis, and asked for the best methods of integrating our clinics with your registration service." The syphilis test would be in line with a suggestion made recently by Surg. Gen. Thomas Parran of the Public Health Service.

6,800 Registrars. Preliminary plans for the school registration organization, it was